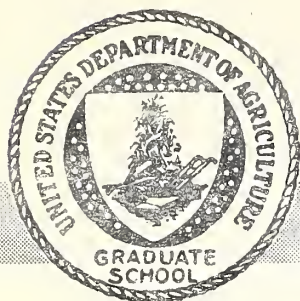


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve
1.984
G 75



Newsletter

SEP 12 1955

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

September 30 1955

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

Even though the threat of Hurricane Ione delayed Monday classes by one week, we're off to a good start this semester. Enrollment is up by 10 percent. Incomplete registration figures show 2,466 enrolled this fall as compared with 2,205 as of same date for 1954. We have more students but fewer classes -- 130 as compared with 144 in September of last year. Among the bright trends is the enrollment in mathematics and statistics courses. There are 50 students in Introduction to Statistics and for the first time in several years a number of advanced courses in this field have attracted sufficient students to warrant giving the work. Registration for Graduate School work at the National Institutes of Health is just beginning as the Newsletter goes to press. We anticipate an enrollment of around 300 there.

"We need to examine the possibility of getting students to take more responsibility for their own education" in the opinion of President Lewis Webster Jones of Rutgers University. He thinks one of our main difficulties in higher education today is "over teaching and under learning" and "the only real education is self-education".

Dr. Jones outlined these views in a thought provoking speech at the annual faculty dinner, September 8. While much of what he said was concerned with formal education in our colleges and universities, many of his insights have special meaning for those of us in adult education.

For instance, he argues that we can teach larger numbers. It is better for the student to be within 50 feet of a great man than 2 feet of one who is only mediocre. We often waste enormous time by telling students about things that they could read in books. We haven't explored the opportunities for using television in teaching.

President Jones believes that higher education is facing the greatest change since passage of the Morrill Act. One force is the increasing number of young people to be educated. There are 2.3 million 18-year olds today. There will be more than 4 million by 1970.

Other forces calling for changes in education are developments on the international scene, new sources of energy, and automation, which involve re-training and upgrading of all workers.

Many institutions will find it difficult to expand and to change curricula to meet new needs. Dr. Jones quoted Lyman Wilbur's comment that "To change a university curriculum is very much like moving a cemetery." He emphasized the need in this country for a tremendous diversity of talent. We have not carried specialization too far but we have neglected to carry human studies with it.

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

October 4 - Commissioner Samuel Brownell of the Office of Education will be guest speaker for the first in the 1955 series of faculty luncheons.

October 12 - A dramatic presentation of the products of agricultural research will be given by ARS Administrator Byron T. Shaw and Frank Teuton in the first of a series of programs on the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Jefferson Auditorium at 4 p.m.

"A telephone company executive in the Empire State and a Saudi Arabian well apprentice half a world distant have something in common", according to a story in the NEW YORK TIMES for September 3.

"Both must undergo training to improve their efficiency on the job that is the last word in modern industrial education.

There is a whole world of difference of course, between the kinds of training they receive. The communications official is given all the facts and advice that will help him make decisions to govern actions of employees that work for him. The Arab, fresh from his desert tent, is shown how to work with tools, typewriters, and other implements.

The New York Telephone Company begins the second session of its continuing course for middle management executives. These are the 864 division heads and district managers who rank just below top company officials and ahead of foremen or line supervisors. With few specialized exceptions, they supervise directly or indirectly the activities of the company's 77 thousand employees in the State.

Forty-eight executives at a time take the course for one week. They are split up into groups of 12. During the day each group will receive actual case studies of personnel problems encountered by executives in other companies.

Once presented, each case will be thrown open to discussion by all hands. Every executive present will speak his piece about solutions. No reasonable idea will be barred by the conference leader. At night, the executives will be expected to do collateral reading.

About the same time the telephone bosses are receiving their decision-building training, a new group of Arabs will report for instruction at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Many will be unable to read or write. At Dhahran as new employees of the Arabian American Oil Company, the desert dwellers will be made literate if that is necessary. Then they will be instructed in all kinds of trades and skills both on and off the job.

The time spent training each employee by the company is limited only by his capacity to learn. Hundreds of Arabs have risen through the ranks from the least skilled worker to very responsible supervisory positions in field and office. Others have become skilled artisans and technicians.

O. B. Conoway, assistant director, starts home the latter part of September from Jerusalem where he has served as consultant on public administration to the Kaplan School of Economics and Social Sciences at the Hebrew University.

He reports that in July the Kaplan School and the Israeli Civil Service Commission reached an agreement to establish a graduate department of public administration. This will offer professional work to people who wish to enter public service and to officials desiring further training. The new department will also organize courses to be used by the Israeli

government in its in-service training programs.

Another member of our faculty, J. K. McClarren, now in Paris with the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, is making a study of methods used in Western Europe to translate agricultural research information into extension materials. He is co-author of a handbook, "The Written Word for Advisory Workers". Mr. McClarren plans to return to Washington early in December.

The fact that our correspondence courses are offered through the Armed Forces Institute probably accounts for the numerous letters we receive from young men in the service who would like to enter government work, particularly the Department of Agriculture.

It gives us an opportunity to point out to them that the best way to get into the Federal government is to get a degree from some strong college or university that will help them qualify for a civil service rating.

In encouraging these young people to go on with their education, we can also point out that there are data to show that a college education has an average money value of more than \$100,000 in addition to the lasting satisfactions that come with a good education.

We're taking a new look at our language courses. At the suggestion of instructors under the leadership of Erwin Jaffe, we are asking students to fill in a questionnaire showing whether they are taking the language for professional or cultural purposes and whether they think the granting of credit is important to them. The results will then be used by the instructor in planning the content of the course for the semester.

Another accolade has come to C. O. Henderson of our General Administration Board. On September 13, Chairman Philip Young of the Civil Service Commission presented him with the highest of six awards for 1955 by the Training Officers Conference. Final judges in making the selection were Senator Olin D. Johnston, Arthur S. Flemming, and Wilson H. Elkins.

Possibly some of you will be interested in applying for an international relations training fellowship recently announced by the Ford Foundation. These are available to citizens and aliens permanently residing in this country who intend to become citizens. The applicant should not be over 40 years of age and should have completed all requirements for a doctorate, except the dissertation, by February 1956, or have equivalent training and experience. You can get information and application forms from The Secretary, the Ford Foundation, 477 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. Deadline for filing is December 15, 1955. Awards will be announced in April.

The Graduate School lost another good friend and able supporter in the death of Robert M. Salter, September 13. Dr. Salter, a noted soil scientist, and head of the Soils and Water Conservation Research Branch of the Agricultural Research Administration, had been a member of the General Administration Board for the past five years.

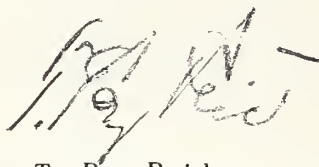
AMONG OURSELVES

We hope you will take an opportunity to see the exhibit of paintings by Pietro Lazzari now on display at the Corcoran Gallery.

Carl Barnes has moved from USDA's Office of Personnel to the Commodity Stabilization Service where he is in charge of classification of personnel.

A faculty member in the news and in the newsreels this summer was Constantin Nififoroff, who served as an interpreter for the Russian farmers on their tour of the Middlewest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Roy Reid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

T. Roy Reid
Director